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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/065,462	10/21/2002	Shankara Bonthu Reddy	124611	4030

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EXAMINER

RAMIREZ, JOHN FERNANDO

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3737

DATE MAILED: 03/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



## DETAILED ACTION

### *Election/Restrictions*

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-18, drawn to a **method for calculating duration of a representative cardiac cycle using ECG waveform data**, the method comprising, *inter alia*, generating the ECG waveform data using an electrocardiogram device; evaluating said ECG data to validate a signal from said electrocardiogram device; detecting QRS complexes of ECG data using a detection function; analyzing underlying cardiac rhythm based on said detected QRS complexes; selecting an even number N of substantially normally shaped consecutive QRS complexes; computing an RR interval between said consecutive QRS complexes to yield N-1 intervals; calculating duration of the representative cardiac cycle by averaging at least a plurality of said N-1 intervals., classified in class 600, subclass 428.
- II. Claims 19-22, drawn to a **method for associating ECG waveform data with image data generated by an imaging system using a data synchronization scheme** comprising, *inter alia*, obtaining the imaging system, an electrocardiogram device and an object to be examined; associating said object with the imaging system and said electrocardiogram device; and processing the image data and the ECG waveform data using the data synchronization scheme wherein the data

synchronization scheme, generates the ECG waveform data using an electrocardiogram device; evaluates said ECG data to validate a signal from said electrocardiogram device; detects QRS complexes of ECG data using a detection function; analyzes underlying cardiac rhythm based on said detected QRS complexes; selects an even number N of substantially normally shaped consecutive QRS complexes; computes an RR interval between said consecutive QRS complexes to yield N-1 intervals; and calculates duration of the representative cardiac cycle by averaging at least a plurality of said N-1 intervals., classified in class 378 , subclass 8.

- III. Claims 23-36, drawn to a method to improve cardiac image quality in the presence of arrhythmias during medical imaging with a scanning medical imaging system, the method comprising, *inter alia*, calculating a representative R-R interval of a patient; selecting a scanning window within said representative R-R interval; scanning a patient's heart during said scanning window to obtain image data; detecting an arrhythmia at one of prior and during said scanning window; and assembling an image of the patient's heart representative of said scanning window of said R-R interval from chronologically discontinuous segments of the image data while rejecting any image data corresponding to any R-R interval of plurality of R-R intervals having said arrhythmia., classified in class 600, subclass 425.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons: Inventions [I, and II] and III are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different designs, modes of operation, and effects (MPEP § 802.01 and § 806.06). In the instant case, the different inventions are not capable of use together and they have different, modes of operation, and effects. For example, in Group I the method is for calculating duration of a representative cardiac cycle using ECG waveform data, in Group II the method is for associating ECG waveform data with image data generated by an imaging system using a data synchronization scheme, in Group III the method is to improve cardiac image quality in the presence of arrhythmias during medical imaging with a scanning medical imaging system.

Inventions I and III are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because is a method to improve cardiac image quality in the presence of arrhythmias during medical imaging with a scanning medical imaging system. The subcombination has separate utility such as a method for calculating duration of a representative cardiac cycle using ECG waveform data.

Inventions II and III are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed

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does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because is a method to improve cardiac image quality in the presence of arrhythmias during medical imaging with a scanning medical imaging system. The subcombination has separate utility such as processing the image data and the ECG waveform data using the data synchronization scheme.

Inventions II and III are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct if they do not overlap in scope and are not obvious variants, and if it is shown that at least one subcombination is separately usable. In the instant case, subcombination II and III has separate utility such as processing the image data and the ECG waveform data using the data synchronization scheme. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art in view of their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and the inventions require a different field of search (see MPEP § 808.02), restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the

requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103(a) of the other invention.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

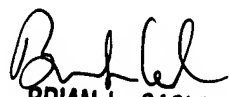
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John F. Ramirez whose telephone number is (571) 272-8685. The examiner can normally be reached on (Mon-Fri) 7:30 - 4:00 p.m.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian L. Casler can be reached on (571) 272-4956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JFR  
03/16/06

  
BRIAN L. CASLER  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
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